



HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee - (Virtual Meeting)

Tuesday, March 1, 7pm

MINUTES

Present: Heather Gerrits (Trustee); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Margo Shuttleworth (Trustee); Yalin Gorica (Association for Bright Children); Jenn Heidstra (Association for Bright Children); Lisa Cameron (Autism Ontario); Candice Keem (Community Living Burlington); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Rebecca Hurren (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Alison Brindle (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); James Baldwin (Member at Large); Lucille Morris (Member at Large); Tracey Ehl Harrison (Trustee); Sarah Lansley (Easter Seals Society); Kathy Turner (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children)

Staff: Colette Ruddock (Superintendent); Sean Marks (Principal); Lorna Goodrow (Administrator)

Regrets: Diane Vandenbossche (Learning Disabilities Association of Halton/Hamilton); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children); Diane Miller (Member at Large)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

A. Brindle called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

A. Brindle read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#188-22 K. Turner and T. Ehl Harrison

Be it resolved that the Special Education Advisory Committee approved the agenda for March 1, 2022.

Carried Unanimously

1.4 Minutes of February 8, 2022

#189-22 Y. Gorica and S. Lansley

Be it resolved that the minutes for the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee for February 8, 2022 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

For our first action item, there was a presentation made on our Early Literacy Program and Intervention Strategy. Superintendent Ruddock introduced members of the School Programs Department, Cristina Salmini, Superintendent, Laurie Reid, Principal and Jennifer Chamberland, Instructional Program Leader.

Also joining in our presentations this evening were staff from the Special Education Services Department, which included Christine Howard, Manager, Sandra Hall and Cheri Kish, Instructional Program Leaders and Lisa Dykstra, Speech-Language Pathologist. There was an opportunity for questions after the presentation. Superintendent Ruddock wanted to acknowledge all of the work of the team and to recognize the staff as well that were not in attendance this evening. It has been exciting work and at times very challenging and intense. I am very proud of our Special Education Services Department and our School Programs Department for everything that has been accomplished.

Action Item 2.2 - KELLP and ELPHA

A. Brindle welcomed the team that was presenting this evening. After the presentation, there was a fulsome discussion on both presentations. Superintendent Ruddock thanked staff for their presentation this evening on our KELLP and ELPHA programs.

Superintendent Ruddock confirmed that the slideshow presentations given this evening will be forwarded to all SEAC members by the end of the week.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Question Period

None

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

1. The Ministry has released the budget for school boards. Superintendent Negoj will attend an upcoming meeting to share HDSB's draft budget for the 2022-23 school year, perhaps earlier than initially anticipated given this early release. Included in the Ministry announcement is funding for tutoring supports for students during the school day, outside of the school day or during the summer. This funding is to be spent between April and December 2022. Once the details on how this envelope of money may be allocated (i.e., the TPA agreement), the School Programs Department and Special Education Services will review the options and develop a plan.

2. The Ministry is requiring school boards to offer a remote learning option for parents for another school year. HDSB is currently developing plans for this model in both the elementary and secondary panel, as well as a timeline for model selection for families.

3. PPM 166 is a new memorandum requiring school boards to develop policy and initiatives related to anti-sex trafficking. Halton has developed a multi-disciplinary team across both school boards, and in collaboration with Halton Regional Police Services and community partners, to develop an administrative procedure and staff learning. This work is of particular interest to our Special Education Services team, as our students are often more vulnerable to this issue and, as such, we have representation on this regional team.

4. Superintendent Ruddock commented that she will share with SEAC the link to the Right to Read Executive Summary and Recommendations. SES is reviewing the recommendations and will develop an action plan.

4.2 Association Reports

Alison Brindle reported the following: LDAHH would like to thank the OHRC for the two and a half years of work they put into the Right to Read Inquiry which closed yesterday with the publication of their report. This report addresses the inequity of service experienced by many students with reading disabilities across Ontario and puts forward 157 recommendations to improve the support that they receive in our education system. This includes training educators on the evidenced-based approach of structured literacy and eliminating balanced literacy, increasing the assessment of progress to twice a year for all students in K-2, increased availability psych ed assessments, earlier intervention programs, appropriate accommodations and universal design for learning in all classrooms. It also recommends increased funding from the Ministry of Education to all school boards to ensure this happens without negatively impacting other exceptional students. We are excited as an organization to see these recommendations implemented and offer our support and services to HDSB to help in any way that we can.

One of the ways that LDAHH currently offers support is through the organization of its Annual Solutions for Learning Conference. This is taking place this weekend, online, and we encourage anyone who hasn't yet to purchase a ticket. We have 16 fantastic speakers talking about evidenced-based approaches to support students with learning disabilities and/or ADHD both academically and emotionally. We will have Dr. Linda Siegel, one of the experts retained by the OHRC, talking on the implications of this report on education in Ontario. Tickets are available at www.ldahh.ca/sfl11

Rebecca Hurren of Halton Down Syndrome Association reported that March 21, 2022 is World Down's Syndrome Day.

Katherine Turner reported that Voice for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be running a "Mother Goose" program which is an early literacy program and that it is free to everyone, and in May there will be a "dress loud" day in all schools.

4.3 Trustee Reports

1. Director Ennis is hosting a panel series on identity, inclusion and human rights. The second one, released yesterday, was called, Black Excellence Today and Everyday. It can be accessed [here](#).
2. The Board of Trustees wrote a [letter](#) to the Province in support of the SEAC and staff positions related to PPM 81.
3. Your ideas and perspectives about this year's budget are invited. You can take a survey prior to March 7, and through conversation at the upcoming SEAC meeting. The [website](#) has a lot of helpful background information.
4. The Board has developed a new Anti-Sex Trafficking [Procedure](#), and amended the Save and Accepting Schools [Policy](#) to be inclusive of this.
5. The minutes for the most recent Parent Involvement Committee can be found [here](#).

4.4 Committee Reports

- Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) -
- Accessibility Coordinating Committee - none
- Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Steering Committee - none
- Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy Steering and Advisory Committee - none

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

2022-2023 Special Education Plan
Community Living Presentation
Autism Ontario Presentation

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Alison Brindle adjourned the meeting at 8:54p.m.